

# giving matters

WINTER 2006

A publication for supporters of  
health-related research and education  
at the University of Minnesota



Tom and Jean McGough

"We're always trying to find ways to help. It seems that the University is always getting its funds cut ... so this seemed like the best way to help the Medical School continue its important research on these diseases."

## A gift that keeps on giving

Jean McGough created an endowed chair in women's health to honor her mother — and to help future generations

Jean McGough knows firsthand about ovarian cancer — how it has the power to slowly rob a woman of her energy, her health, and eventually, her life.

In 1993 she sat by her mother's side in her Roseville home, caring for her as she wrestled the disease through the final three months of her life.

It was a life-changing experience, says McGough, and it left her with questions about her own health. What were her chances of contracting ovarian cancer? she wondered. Is it something that runs in families? But, like most of us, she put those uncomfortable questions aside. Then, in the summer of 2002, the issue struck home for her and for millions of other women across the country.

That July, the National Institutes of Health revealed that it was halting the use of estrogen and progestin hormone replacement therapy (marketed under the brand name Prempro) in its massive 15-year study on postmenopausal women. The reason: The study results were showing unacceptable risks of breast cancer, heart disease, and stroke associated with taking the hormone drug combo. As a result, 16,000 women received a letter advising them to stop taking Prempro.

The news quickly hit papers and TV screens across the country, and McGough — along with an entire generation of women — started paying attention and asking questions. Soon after, the University of Minnesota Medical School held a community education program to address the issues raised by the federal study. McGough signed up for the event at the invitation of Cathy Brennan, president of the former Women's Health Fund, and found herself among an audience of more than 600 women.



Eleanor Forliti

Later, another friend — Patty Arnold, chief financial officer for University of Minnesota Physicians — introduced her to Linda Carson, M.D.,

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# giving matters



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University of Minnesota  
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By the time you receive this issue of Giving Matters, I will have stepped down as president and CEO of the

Minnesota Medical Foundation to become vice president of university advancement at the University of South Carolina. While it's difficult to leave Minnesota, I'm proud to look back at all we've accomplished together over the past 10 years. Your dedication to our mission has been integral to the University's success and has enabled MMF to become a model among charitable fund-raising organizations nationwide.

Working together over the past decade, we have raised \$436 million, created 92 endowed faculty positions, provided \$9.8 million in scholarships and awards to 4,359 students, moved to a fabulous new home in the McNamara Alumni Center, and attracted an outstanding cadre of advancement professionals to the foundation staff. Thanks to you and all the others who support our organization, I am confident our future will be as bright and exciting as our past.

Our board of trustees, led by chair Beth Erickson, is the most informed and involved trustee group one could imagine. Our executive management team — Vice President of Development Carl Bendorf, Vice President of Marketing and Communications Catherine Henry, and CFO and Vice President of Operations Cindy Kaiser — consists of true professionals who lead outstanding programs. As our chief development officer, Carl became interim president and CEO on February 1, leaving the foundation in good hands while an executive search committee under the direction of board vice chair John Murphy works with a search firm to identify, select, and hire my successor.

Thank you for your inspiration, dedication, and friendship. Although I leave Minnesota with some regret, my primary feelings are of respect, admiration, and gratitude.

**Brad Choate**

Former President and CEO  
Minnesota Medical Foundation

## Put it on plastic

Herberger's "Charge Against Breast Cancer" campaign

A few simple swipes of a Herberger's credit card can add up to a big difference in women's breast cancer research. Every time a purchase is made with a Herberger's card, Carson Pirie Scott & Co. — the parent company of Herberger's department stores — donates a portion of the sale to the University of Minnesota Cancer Center. The money is used for women's breast cancer research that could help find ways to improve the chances of detecting breast cancer early and finding better treatment options.

Carson Pirie Scott & Co. has been giving to the Cancer Center through its "Charge Against Breast Cancer" campaign since 2001. In those four years, proceeds from the promotion and the sale of pink ribbon merchandise have topped \$250,000.

"Until there is a cure, we want to be involved because it certainly is a disease that affects many of our associates and customers alike," says Ed Carroll, executive vice president for sales promotion and marketing at Carson Pirie Scott & Co., noting that the majority of Herberger's employees and shoppers are women.

Carroll says the Milwaukee-based company believes that it's important to keep money raised through the promotion local. That means the money accrued by store credit card sales at the 18 Herberger's and Younkers stores in Minnesota stays in Minnesota, he says. The company has similar promotions in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

"Rather than being involved with a national organization, we felt it was appropriate for us to localize our involvement in communities where we do business," Carroll says.

Carson Pirie Scott & Co. chose the University of Minnesota Cancer Center for several reasons: The University is located in the Twin Cities, is well known in the community, and has earned a designation as a National Cancer Institute comprehensive cancer center.



Investigators with the Cancer Center's breast cancer research program are focused on improving current research and discovering new methods to detect, treat, and prevent breast cancer to decrease the number of breast cancer-related deaths. Researchers from many disciplines are collaborating on several projects, ranging from understanding the biology of breast cancer to enhancing treatment through more precisely targeted therapies.

As director of the Cancer Center, John Kersey, M.D., sees firsthand how the "Charge Against Breast Cancer" campaign is making a difference.

"The money raised by Herberger's has supported research that will allow earlier diagnosis and better treatments for breast cancer," Kersey says. "Despite much progress, this continues to be the most frequent major cancer in women. We are all thankful to Herberger's for its ongoing support."



# Doing business for a cause

At the Hope Chest retail store, women with breast cancer are the ones who profit

Not long ago, Barbara Hensley got a frightening glimpse of her future. She lost her younger sister to breast cancer in 1994 and lost her older sister to breast cancer two years later. Hensley knew she had to do something to stop the disease that devastated her family.

She had been in corporate executive management for 20 years, most recently for a Fortune 100 company in the Twin Cities, so she decided to put her business savvy to work for a different cause — one that could potentially save lives.

"I didn't need to be making the money I made in the past," Hensley says. "I was 52 years old, and I knew that if I wanted to make a difference and really make an impact on breast cancer, I had better do it."

So she opened the Hope Chest for Breast Cancer, a store that raises money for the cause by selling donated upscale furniture, accessories, and designer clothing. Hensley gets a variety of new merchandise from interior designers, manufacturers, and retail stores going out of business, as well as generous donations of barely used items from the Twin Cities community. She also puts on fund-raising events and accepts monetary donations for breast cancer causes.

Hensley's store opened just west of Wayzata in November 2002. She hoped she'd be able to give \$50,000 to breast cancer causes after the first year. The store actually netted \$180,000.

In July Hensley gave \$100,000 in proceeds to the University of Minnesota Cancer Center for patient services support and outreach and education programs created especially for the area's immigrant and underserved populations.

Marva Bohen, R.N., the Cancer Center's director of community outreach and education, has seen firsthand how the Hope Chest gift has helped spread the word about early detection. Part of the gift funded a call-in show on a Somali TV station that features a Somali physician answering questions about breast cancer. The two-hour show was a relatively inexpensive way to teach this community about early detection and what it means to be diagnosed, Bohen says.

Another part of the Hope Chest gift went to replenish the Women's Cancer Resource Center's emergency fund. This group has long supported low-income members of the African-American community who have been diagnosed with breast cancer, Bohen says.

Hensley knows of women who've had to choose between getting treatment or paying the rent. "I knew in my soul it wasn't right and it wasn't fair," she says. That's why — through the emergency fund — the Hope Chest money is being used for rent, heat, groceries, transportation to clinic appointments, and childcare during medical appointments.

The gift funds a similar initiative at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview. Breast Cancer Program Coordinator Susan Pappas-Varco, R.N., says any underserved patient is eligible for this program. She collaborates with social worker Ann Cummings to determine which patients show the greatest need for financial help.

Many have stage 4, or metastatic, breast cancer that has spread in their bodies, says Pappas-Varco, and they've probably been living with cancer for several years. "Many of these women have really gone through a lot of their savings and have very few places to turn," she says.

Hensley wants to fund projects like these year after year and is excited to watch them grow. "The continuity can really make an amazing difference in people's lives," she says.

And Hensley has even bigger goals for the future. She eventually wants to raise



After losing her two sisters to breast cancer, Barbara Hensley put her business savvy to use by opening her first Hope Chest. Much of the store's proceeds are put toward breast cancer efforts.

\$10 million for breast cancer through a chain of Hope Chest stores throughout the country. "It's having a successful business while at the same time doing good," she says.

Through the franchise model she created for the Hope Chest stores, Hensley wants to provide opportunities for others to be social entrepreneurs like herself by owning their own stores and making a difference for women with breast cancer at the same time.

To raise the targeted \$10 million, Hensley intends to have 50 operational Hope Chest stores throughout the country. A second store — which Hensley will also own and use as a model for others who might be interested in opening their own store — is in the works in St. Paul. Its projected opening is this June.

And Hensley says she's got plenty of energy — and motivation — to see that her plan succeeds. "I can dedicate the rest of my life to making a difference in the breast cancer world," she says.

To learn more about the Hope Chest for Breast Cancer, go to [www.hopechest.us](http://www.hopechest.us) or call 952-471-8700.

# A place to learn and reflect

Donors helped to create the McElfresh Library as a gift to orthopaedic surgeons of today and tomorrow

There's a unique new space tucked away on the University's West Bank campus — a library that incorporates a trove of historical medical books as well as high-speed access to electronic versions of medical journals and texts.

It's the McElfresh Orthopaedic Library, a place made possible through the vision of leaders in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, the generosity of many dedicated donors, and the legacy of a beloved hand surgeon by the name of Ed McElfresh, M.D.

The University of Minnesota has a long and rich history in orthopaedic surgery that stretches back to the founding of the Medical School in 1888. In recent years, McElfresh, an orthopaedic faculty member, carefully documented the department's illustrious history at the request of Marc Swiontkowski, M.D., the department's current leader. It was a natural extension of McElfresh's deeply held passion for history: Over his lifetime, he amassed an extensive collection of 19th- and 20th-century books on the history of medicine and orthopaedic surgery in particular.

Following his untimely death in August 2000, the history project was continued by Jim House, M.D., and Karen Thomas, Ph.D., leading to the publication of *A Century of Orthopaedic Heritage: A History of the University of Minnesota Department of Orthopaedic Surgery*, which was dedicated to McElfresh.

Around the same time, the department relocated to the West Bank campus — a move that brought more space and direct access to

the Riverside campus of the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview. But the move also put the department farther from the University's biomedical library, located in Diehl Hall.

This confluence of events led House, a hand surgeon and former interim head of the department, to an innovative idea: What if we create a new library on the West Bank that incorporates both the historic McElfresh collection and online access to the latest medical texts?

House sat down with Swiontkowski to sketch out a shared vision for a conveniently located library where medical students, faculty, and practicing physicians could reflect on their profession's past while accessing the University's vast collection of medical volumes.

House had enjoyed a long and close friendship with Ed McElfresh and his wife, Nancy. When House approached Nancy about the library idea, she quickly understood the value to current and future physicians. "It's a privilege to donate Ed's books to begin or seed the library's collection," she says.

"Ed frequently spoke of his love of teaching orthopaedic surgery to residents," adds Nancy, who is now Nancy McElfresh Sletten.

"Lifelong learning and teaching were his passions. Through these donated books, in a sense, his teaching continues. We as a family feel a sense of pride when we see his name on the library and a sense of gratitude toward the orthopaedic community that has honored Ed in this way."

House and Swiontkowski then fleshed out the details with leaders from the University's Academic Health Center, Fairview, and the Minnesota Medical Foundation. After some



PHOTO: JERRY VINCENT

The McElfresh Orthopaedic Library is stocked with volumes of historical medical books and several computers for high-speed access to online medical texts.

careful planning, a fund-raising campaign was organized.

Others clearly saw value in the plan. To date, donors have contributed nearly \$235,000 in commitments for the library, including major gifts from Nancy McElfresh Sletten; the Minnesota Orthopedic Society; Mark Engasser, M.D.; Steve Kuslich, M.D.; many orthopaedic alumni, colleagues, and friends; and several orthopaedic device companies.

The renovated space opened with much fanfare on November 17, 2005. "We couldn't be happier or more proud of the finished space," says House, who agreed to spearhead the fund-raising campaign.

Swiontkowski agrees. "It's a real resource for our residents," he says. Residents are especially impressed by the fact that they can get immediate access to digital X-rays of their patients admitted at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview. Swiontkowski says that when this new feature was showcased for students applying to the Medical School's residency program, they were wowed.

There are now plans to incorporate instruction on how to most efficiently utilize the library's resources into the core curriculum for orthopaedic surgery students, residents, and faculty. "With this library, we can teach problem-solving using electronic databases and tools," says House.

The library's McElfresh book collection also provides some historic perspective.



PHOTO: JERRY VINCENT

Jim House, M.D., Nancy McElfresh Sletten, and Mark Dahl, M.D. celebrated the library's opening last November. Dahl is an orthopaedic surgeon and sculptor who created a bronze bust of McElfresh, which is now on display in the library.





The late Ed McElfresh, M.D., a beloved hand surgeon, carefully documented the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery's history and collected hundreds of historical medical books. His extensive collection is now available in the library.

"There's a huge value in understanding the past," says Swiontkowski. By studying medical precedents, the profession can avoid repeating costly mistakes, he says. "We are a community of scholars that proceed cautiously toward the new."

House also points out that orthopaedic surgeons of today can't understand where they're going without respect for where the profession has been.

"The last 50 years have brought tremendous advancements in musculoskeletal science and bioscience," he says. With access to both the history of orthopaedic surgery and the latest subspecialty journals, students, residents, and physicians can garner a broader view of the profession.

And that's fitting for a library named after a physician who loved history, books, and technology. "It's the perfect way to honor Ed's memory," says Swiontkowski.

## Advancing research

Regis Foundation's support helps take breakthroughs from lab to patients

Anita Kunin knows the importance of finding the best ways to diagnose and treat breast cancer. She's a 15-year breast cancer survivor — and she's not alone.

"I'm starting to feel like everyone I know is a survivor," she says.

Kunin is also the founder and driving force behind the Regis Foundation for Breast Cancer Research, an organization affiliated with Regis Corporation, the Edina-based chain of hair salons founded by her husband, Myron Kunin. Today Regis has more than 11,000 salons throughout North America and Europe under the brand names MasterCuts, Trade Secret, Supercuts, SmartStyle, Cost Cutters, and Regis Salons.

Since 1990, Regis stylists have been donating their time and proceeds from haircuts on a specific day in October — Breast Cancer Awareness Month — to the company's foundation.

Under Kunin's guidance, the Regis Foundation for Breast Cancer Research has given nearly \$1 million to breast cancer efforts at the Cancer Center over the past five years. Last year, the foundation increased its annual gift to \$300,000 to fund three innovative projects.

"The University of Minnesota has a grand reputation, and since the Regis corporate headquarters are here, it's a prime place to focus our dollars," Kunin says.

Funding from the Regis Foundation has supported several projects to help researchers turn their findings into novel treatments for patients, says Doug Yee, M.D., director of the Cancer Center's Breast Cancer Research Program and holder of the Tickle Family Land-Grant Chair in Breast Cancer Research.

The foundation has been especially generous in giving to pilot research projects, Yee says. Through pilot projects, researchers can test new ideas; if preliminary findings show that an idea is worth further investigation, researchers can compete for larger grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Not all projects go as expected, Yee cautions. But so far the pilot projects within the Breast Cancer Research Program have done well. "Fortunately, most have been translated into larger funding from the NIH," he says.

The Regis Foundation also supports magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) research at the Cancer Center to help find the best



PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

Anita Kunin, founder of the Regis Foundation for Breast Cancer Research

diagnostic tests and treatment regimens for women with advanced breast cancer.

Yee says it's often difficult to find funding for the infrastructure needed to conduct research, but the Regis Foundation supports



PHOTO: TIM RUMMELHOFF

Juliette Gay, R.N., has been a breast cancer research nurse for more than 25 years. Gay currently helps enroll eligible women in clinical trials.

that area, too. Juliette Gay, R.N., is now part of the research team as a nurse manager with support from the foundation's gifts. "She knows as much about breast cancer as anybody," Yee says.

Gay currently helps enroll eligible women in clinical trials, a major part of translational

research that brings breakthroughs in the lab another step closer to becoming treatment breakthroughs for patients worldwide.

"Regis has been really generous in supporting what we need to make our program a more innovative place for breast cancer care and research," Yee says.

# Now that's commitment

In addition to time and energy, some faculty members give their own money

Our faculty members commit most of their lives to their professions, continually devising new ways to take their efforts that little bit farther. Some members of the Medical School and School of Public Health faculty have taken their commitment to the next level. Besides giving so much time and energy to their work, they're also giving their own hard-earned money. Here are the reasons a few of them feel compelled to give.

Jonathan Ravdin, M.D.  
Nesbitt Professor and chair,  
Department of Medicine

Jonathan Ravdin, M.D., recently celebrated his 10th anniversary as chair of the Medical School's Department of Medicine. Marcie Christensen Ravdin, his wife, has spent 12 years at the University of Minnesota in administration for the Department of Medicine and the Medical School as a whole.



Marcie Christensen Ravdin and Jonathan Ravdin, M.D.

Their connections to medicine at the University run long and deep. That's why the Ravdins decided to set aside \$1 million in their estate for an endowed professorship for resident education in the Department of Medicine.

"Both Marcie and I felt it was really important to leave a legacy after we're no longer here at the University," says Jonathan Ravdin. "With this professorship, we can be part of the Department of Medicine in perpetuity."

The Ravdins hold high the value of resident education, he says, and as a department chair, he knows it's not always easy to raise philanthropic dollars for this area.

With the gift of this future professorship, which will be named the Jonathan I. Ravdin and Marcie Christensen Ravdin Professorship in Medical Resident Education, Jonathan Ravdin

says he hopes to inspire other faculty members to support an area that's important to them, too.

"The University and the state of Minnesota have given us a great deal of support, and now we are in a position to give something back," he says.

John R. Finnegan Jr., Ph.D.  
Professor and dean,  
School of Public Health

As the newly named dean of the School of Public Health, John Finnegan Jr., Ph.D., says getting more support for student scholarships is high on his priority list. So to start his official deanship out right, he and his wife, Jan, decided to endow a scholarship themselves.



Jan Finnegan and John Finnegan Jr., Ph.D.

The Finnegans made a \$25,000 cash gift to establish a fellowship in hopes of recruiting the most promising students to any of the School of Public Health's five graduate programs.

"The exciting prospect is that this fellowship may support some students who go on to make new and significant contributions to the progress of public health," John Finnegan says. "I guess you would call that 'paying it forward.'"

The Finnegans named their fund the Finnegan-Mosberger Family Endowed Fellowship in honor of their extended families.

"Jan and I were raised in families that value learning, community involvement, and giving back to the communities that have given us so much over the years," John Finnegan says. "The idea that we could help students pursue their dreams of graduate education in public health was a visible way to honor our families for instilling those values in us."

Over time, John and Jan Finnegan hope that the fellowship will inspire their family members to give to the fund as their resources permit. It must be working: Dean Finnegan's parents have already made a contribution to keep the fellowship fund growing.

Warren Warwick, M.D.  
Professor and founder,  
Minnesota Cystic Fibrosis Center,  
Department of Pediatrics

When Warren Warwick was a medical student, money was tight. Warwick spent his nights working as a nurse and a lab assistant to pay for his schooling while supporting his young family.

He had always wanted to earn a Ph.D. in a basic science in addition to his medical degree, but there never seemed to be enough time or money to do it.

Now Warwick and his wife, Henrietta, hope they can help a few students in the next generation of doctors to pursue that dream.





Warren Warwick, M.D.

With a \$500,000 gift for the Dr. Warren J. and Henrietta Holm Warwick Resident Award, they will provide funding for a medical resident or fellow who wants to pursue a Ph.D. in a basic science. The award will fund tuition and research costs along with a stipend for living expenses. The first Warwick award is expected to be given in 2007.

"This scholarship is for a physician in specialty training who needs and wants the additional scientific skills that come with a Ph.D. in a basic science," says Warwick, 77, a world-renowned expert in cystic fibrosis who remains active in his research and clinics. "The best time for the integration of basic and clinical science is during a residency or fellowship, when the crests of knowledge for both studies can be focused simultaneously on the same problems."

Warwick says the inspiration for the award came from his mentor, Robert A. Good, M.D., Ph.D., who performed the world's first successful bone marrow transplant at the University of Minnesota in 1968. The Warwicks say they're very grateful for Good: He hired Warwick to work in his laboratory while he was in medical school, arranged for Warwick's fellowship in pediatrics at the University of Minnesota, and set up his faculty position after he finished his two-year duty in the army.

head of the Medical School's Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health. The two women hit it off; McGough had at last found a caring expert she could trust — someone who could advise her on her personal health risks.

Eventually, McGough's mind turned back to her mother, who had struggled so fiercely with ovarian cancer. Eleanor Forliti was born of German parents, married an Italian immigrant, and spent her years in St. Paul and Roseville keeping a stable home for her husband and three children.

"She mastered the art of Italian cooking," remembers McGough, "and her favorite times were when the children and grandchildren stopped by for a visit. They never left without being fed." McGough says her mother showed her love through cooking and taught the grandchildren how to make the foods they so loved. "This is the legacy she left for all of us."

With such vibrant memories in mind, McGough decided to sit down with her husband, Tom, to talk about ways to honor her mother's life — and to make a difference in the lives of others who face the risk of ovarian cancer and other diseases prevalent in women.

After consulting at length with Carson, the two finally decided to pledge \$2 million to establish the Jean McGough and Eleanor Forliti Endowed Chair in Women's Health, with Carson as its first chairholder.

"We're always trying to find ways to help," says Jean McGough. "It seems that

"I can't emphasize enough how valuable this gift is to our department."

—LINDA CARSON, M.D.

the University is always getting its funds cut by the state legislature, so this seemed like the best way to help the Medical School continue its important research on these diseases."

As it turns out, the gift is the largest private donation ever received by the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health.

"I can't emphasize enough how valuable this gift is to our department," says Carson. "It will provide resources that can

help us expand in many important areas, from start-up research funds to clinical trials to recruiting a division director for gynecological oncology."

Having money available to start innovative research projects is especially valuable, explains Carson. "In order for our faculty to receive large federal grants through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), they need start-up funds so they can get some preliminary results." Once faculty members demonstrate that their research project is worthy, they can more effectively compete for NIH grants.

For private donors, the benefit to funding such innovative research is huge: In many cases, a relatively small contribution can be leveraged to attract federal grants that are many times the original investment. In the end, countless patients could benefit from the results.

Carson says that faculty members in her department are currently working on a number of such promising research projects, including a clinical trial of compounds that may be useful in treating ovarian cancer; a study that looks at altering enzymes associated with the disease; and the value of

using complementary and alternative medicine techniques to stimulate the immune systems of ovarian cancer patients.

The Jean McGough and Eleanor Forliti

Endowed Chair joins the Shirley A. Sparboe Endowed Chair in Women's Cancer Research as another beacon to attract renowned faculty members to the department and its important work.

And all of this came out of a desire to honor a much-loved and often-remembered mother. "I think she would be proud," says McGough.



Linda Carson, M.D.  
Head, Department of  
Obstetrics, Gynecology,  
and Women's Health

# WineFest No. 11 to feature Napa Valley wineries from Stags Leap District

Tickets now available for the May 12 – 13 events

The Midwest's premier wine charity event is offering something new this year.

WineFest No. 11: A Toast to Children's Health will feature honorary winemasters from 11 wineries of Napa Valley's Stags Leap District, one of the world's foremost cabernet sauvignon-producing regions. The two-day benefit hosted by the University Pediatrics Foundation, an affiliate of the Minnesota Medical Foundation, will take place May 12 and 13 at the Historic Depot in downtown Minneapolis.

The celebration kicks off on Friday with a Wine Symposium at 5:30 p.m., including tastings from the Stags Leap District Winegrowers Association's 2002 Appellation Collection and the opportunity to mingle with winemakers and principals while enjoying a signature menu selection from Manny's Steakhouse. The hugely popular Grand Tasting follows at 6:30 p.m. with hundreds of robust wines, dozens of appetizers from the Twin Cities' top restaurants, and a silent auction.

KARE-11's Belinda Jensen joins Cities 97's Brian Turner and Lee Valsvik to host the Fine Wine Dinner on Saturday starting at 6 p.m. This gourmet dinner features a five-course menu with Stags Leap District wines to complement each course, live and silent auctions, and dancing.

Some of the world-renowned winemakers who will be in Minneapolis for this event are Tom Baldacci, owner of Baldacci Family Vineyards; Doug Fletcher, winemaker for Chimney Rock; John Clews, winemaker for Clos Du Val; Ernie Ilsley of Ilsley Vineyards; Jeff Virnig, winemaker for Robert Sinskey Vineyards; Kevin Morrissey, winemaker for Stags' Leap Winery; and Richard and Allison Steltzner, owners of Steltzner Vineyards.

Proceeds from the event directly support the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School. In the past 10 years, WineFest has raised more than \$5 million for breakthrough research to prevent and cure childhood diseases.

Space is limited, and tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.thewinefest.com](http://www.thewinefest.com) or by calling 612-624-6900 to reserve a spot at this extraordinary wine event.



This painting by Nancy Hauck, titled *En La Viña*, was created especially for WineFest No. 11. It will be auctioned at the fine wine dinner on Saturday, May 13.



WineFest's success depends heavily on its generous sponsors and hard-working volunteers. Since its inception, the event has attracted more than 12,000 guests and raised more than \$5 million for pediatric medical research.



## HONORARY WINEMASTERS FOR WINEFEST NO. 11: A TOAST TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Baldacci Family Vineyards  
Chimney Rock Winery  
Cliff Lede Vineyards  
Clos Du Val  
Ilsley Vineyards  
Pine Ridge Winery  
Robert Sinskey Vineyards  
Silverado Vineyards  
Stags' Leap Winery  
Steltzner Vineyards  
Taylor Family Vineyards

To order tickets call 612-624-6900 or go to [www.thewinefest.com](http://www.thewinefest.com).



## APRIL

**18 TUESDAY 11 a.m.**  
Minnesota Medical Foundation Honors and Awards Luncheon\*  
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
A ceremony honoring Medical School faculty and students who are 2005–2006 recipients of MMF awards recognizing outstanding teaching, research, leadership, community services, and scholastic achievement.  
① Contact Heather Shetka at 612-624-4444 or h.shetka@mmf.umn.edu.

## MAY

**5 FRIDAY**  
Medical School Commencement  
Northrop Auditorium, University of Minnesota  
① Contact Linda Reilly at 612-624-9608 or reill002@umn.edu.

**12–13 FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
WineFest No. 11: A Toast to Children's Health\*  
Wine Symposium: Friday 5:30–7 p.m.  
Grand Tasting: Friday 6:30–9:30 p.m.  
Fine Wine Dinner: Saturday 6 p.m. – midnight  
The Historic Depot, Minneapolis  
WineFest is the Midwest's premier wine charity event benefiting the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota. This year's event features 11 prominent vintners from Napa Valley's Stags Leap District.  
① Contact Elizabeth Patty at 612-625-6136 or e.patty@mmf.umn.edu.

**13 SATURDAY 8 a.m. – noon**  
7th annual Macular Degeneration Symposium  
Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center  
Learn about the latest advances in research and the newest treatment options at this free educational event coordinated by the Minnesota Lions Macular Degeneration Center at the University of Minnesota Department of Ophthalmology.  
① Contact Julie Densmore at 612-625-8992 or j.densmore@mmf.umn.edu.

**15 MONDAY**  
School of Public Health Commencement  
Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota  
① Contact Michelle Lian-Anderson at 612-626-5536 or m.lian-anderson@mmf.umn.edu.

**18 THURSDAY**  
Heritage Society Banquet\*  
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
Celebrate the spirit of philanthropy at this reception and dinner hosted by the Minnesota Medical Foundation.  
① Contact Heather Shetka at 612-624-4444 or h.shetka@mmf.umn.edu.

**19–20 FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
Medical School Reunion Weekend\*  
McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota  
The Medical School graduating classes of 1946, 1951, 1956, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, and 1996 are invited to reconnect with classmates and learn of the latest developments at their alma mater.  
① Contact Sue Clark at 612-626-0619 or s.clark@mmf.umn.edu.

## JUNE

**19 MONDAY 11 a.m.**  
Golf Classic "fore" Diabetes Research\*  
Town & Country Club, St. Paul  
Support breakthrough diabetes research at this annual golf outing hosted by the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation.  
① Contact Elizabeth Patty at 612-625-6136 or e.patty@mmf.umn.edu.

go to:  
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For event descriptions, updates, links, and contact information.

\* Sponsored by the Minnesota Medical Foundation

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# A special thanks

We'd like to extend an extra thank-you to the following individuals and organizations who have made commitments of \$100,000 or more between September 2005 and January 2006 to health-related education, research, and service at the University of Minnesota.

Gerald and Julie Aman of Mound, Minnesota, made an estate gift to establish the Gerald A. and Julie K. Aman Endowed Scholarship for medical students at the Medical School – Duluth campus who have an interest in rural medicine. Both Mr. and Mrs. Aman come from small towns; through this scholarship, they hope to have a lasting impact on many other small Midwestern communities.

Dennis and Audrey Anderson of Alexandria, Minnesota, continue their generous support for experimental therapeutic lung cancer research with an additional \$246,825 gift to Dr. Arek Dudek's laboratory in the Department of Medicine. The Andersons' significant contributions give hope that others will soon join the growing ranks of lung cancer survivors.

Astellas Pharma US, Inc., Deerfield, Illinois, gave \$100,000 to the Transplant Continuation Course Fund in the Department of Surgery. Astellas Pharma US focuses on scientific innovation and therapeutic enhancements in cardiology, dermatology, immunology, infectious diseases, and urology.

The Children's Cancer Research Fund (CCRF), Bloomington, Minnesota, contributed more than \$1.84 million to the University's childhood cancer program. In the 25 years since CCRF was founded, it has established five endowed chairs in cancer research at the University of Minnesota. The organization was also featured in the fall 2005 issue of *Giving Matters*.

Bruce W. Cooper of Tavares, Florida, gave stock valued at \$302,091 to establish a charitable gift annuity through the Florence J. and Bruce W. Cooper Endowed Scholarship Fund. The gift will eventually support American Indian students enrolled in the medical, health, or computer science professions at the University of Minnesota – Duluth.

Dr. Donald L. Erickson of Tallahassee, Florida, made a \$900,000 estate gift to bring forth the Dr. Donald L. and Elaine A. Erickson Endowed Research Fund. This endowed position honors the memory of Dr. Erickson's first wife, Elaine. He graduated from the Medical School in 1962 and is a professor emeritus of the Department of Neurosurgery.

Fairview Health Services, Minneapolis, dedicated an additional \$500,000 to the Fairview Medical School Fund in support of the Medical School's academic leadership programs.

Genentech, South San Francisco, California, made a \$100,000 gift to the John F. Finn Arthritis Foundation Land-Grant Chair in Rheumatology. Genentech is a founding member in the biotechnology field that uses human genetic information to discover, develop, manufacture, and commercialize biotherapeutics that address significant unmet medical needs.

The Olga B. Hart Trust made a new \$380,000 gift to the Olga B. Hart Fund for Cancer Research, Treatment, and Education in the Cancer Center. Ms. Hart, who enjoyed a long career as a math teacher in the Minneapolis Public Schools, dedicated over \$4.8 million to the Cancer Center through her estate.

Healthier Minnesota Community Clinic Fund, Inc., Duluth, is an independent foundation created to improve the quality of care for low-income people, communities of color, and the medically underserved. It recently made a \$100,000 gift to the Community–University Health Care Center (CUHCC), a South Minneapolis clinic that serves individuals and families in the Phillips neighborhood.

Dr. William R. Kennedy of St. Paul made a \$110,000 gift through his clinical laboratory, Neurology, Ltd., to support the Nerve, Muscle, and Skin Research Fund in the Department of Neurology.

Felice E. Kronfeld and family of Edina, Minnesota, will give \$193,000 through a charitable lead annuity trust for the Mervin and Felice Kronfeld Cancer Research Endowed Fund. This gift to the Department of Medicine will advance studies on the genetics of lymphoma. It is given in appreciation for the care Mrs. Kronfeld received from Dr. Bruce Peterson.

Dr. Deane C. and Nancy G. Manolis of Hopkins, Minnesota, will make a \$100,000 gift with their pension assets to support research and education programs in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. and Mrs. Manolis previously established the Christos and Gertrude Manolis Endowed Scholarship for medical students. Dr. Manolis is a 1962 graduate of the Medical School, specializing in psychiatry.

The Alice M. O'Brien Foundation, St. Paul, pledged \$250,000 to initiate the O'Brien Biobank Lung Research Fund in the Center for Advanced Lung Disease under the leadership of Dr. Marshall Hertz. The family foundation is also a generous donor to the Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation.

The Dwight D. Opperman Foundation, Minneapolis, made a \$100,000 gift to the Department of Ophthalmology to support age-related macular degeneration research. Mr. Opperman is a former chairman of West Publishing who later founded Key Investments, a privately held venture-capital firm. He has supported a number of Medical School research programs across several disciplines.

Dr. Oliver (Bud) H. Peterson Jr. and Jeannette C. Peterson of Minneapolis made an additional \$200,000 estate gift commitment to the Dr. Oliver H. and Jeannette C. Peterson Endowed International Scholarship for medical students interested in international health. Dr. Peterson will celebrate his 60th anniversary as a Medical School graduate this spring. He specialized in obstetrics and gynecology prior to retiring in 1991. He has served as chair of the Minnesota Medical Foundation Heritage Society Committee and is a former member of the foundation's board of trustees.



# Welcome new members!

Because of their generous support, the following donors were named to the University of Minnesota Presidents Club giving societies between September 2005 and January 2006. Their gifts have been designated (all or in part) to the Medical School, School of Public Health, Cancer Center or other areas served by the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

**BUILDERS SOCIETY**  
(\$1 million or more)

+Dr. Gisela and +E. Paul Konopka  
Jean B. Forliti McGough  
Wurtele Family Fund

**REGENTS SOCIETY**  
(\$500,000 to \$1 million)

Dennis W. and Audrey L. Anderson

**TRUSTEES SOCIETY**  
(\$100,000 to \$500,000)

American Medical Systems  
Carson Pirie Scott & Co.  
EBI, LP  
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Brady Kohn Foundation  
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Smith & Nephew, Inc.  
+Dr. H. Charles Walker Jr.

**CHANCELLORS SOCIETY**  
(\$50,000 to \$100,000)

Barry Foundation  
Dr. Robert J. and June G. Becker  
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John C. and Jennifer K. Feltl  
Drs. Margaret L. Grunnet, '62,  
and +Irving Einhorn  
+Dr. Valentine, '43, and +Lorraine E. O'Malley  
Dr. Catherine M. Verfaillie  
Andrew and Marci Weiner

**FOUNDERS SOCIETY**  
(\$25,000 to \$50,000)

Amato Family and Friends  
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+Charles A. Brandon  
Dr. John H. and Patricia A. Brown  
Beverly Carlson Gazda  
Drs. Joseph M., '68, and Margaret C. Keenan  
Sandra J. and Steven R. Landberg  
Laurence F. and Jean Y. LeJeune  
Drs. Douglas J., '77, and Barbara J. Olson, '76  
Dr. John L. and Joan E. Seymour

**HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
(Future Gifts)

Gerald A. and Julie K. Aman  
Thomas M. and Patricia A. Grossman  
Rollie H. and Dr. Leonard O. Langer Jr., '53  
Dr. Deane C., '62, and Nancy G. Manolis  
Robert J. and Margaret Ann Pecha  
Dr. Jonathan I. and Marcie Christensen Ravdin

+Deceased

Dr. Jonathan I. and Marcie C. Ravdin of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, committed a \$1 million irrevocable gift in their estate to establish the Dr. Jonathan I. and Marcie Christensen Ravdin Professorship in Medical Resident Education. Dr. Ravdin is Nesbitt professor and chair of the Department of Medicine and Marcie Christensen Ravdin is the former administrative center director for the department; she currently works as a special projects officer in the Medical School dean's office. (See article, page 6.)

Research to Prevent Blindness, New York City, made another annual contribution of \$110,000 to the Department of Ophthalmology. This largely voluntary organization has made gifts to fund vision research at the University of Minnesota for many years.

The Margaret Harvey Schering Trust, Minneapolis, gave an additional \$130,000 contribution to the Cancer Center. The Margaret Harvey Schering Land-Grant Chair in Cancer Genetics is also funded by this trust.

The estate of James G. Schindler of Savannah, Georgia, will give a total of \$1.295 million for the James Schindler and Bob Allison Ataxia Endowment Fund. This gift will be used to establish the James Schindler and Bob Allison Chair in Translational Research dedicated to neurodegenerative diseases with a focus on ataxia. Mr. Schindler's friendship with Bob Allison — formed in the 1950s during their years in baseball's minor leagues — as well as his support for the Allison family's commitment to raising funds for ataxia research motivated him to make this exemplary gift. Mr. Schindler's gift was featured in the fall 2005 issue of Giving Matters.

**MINNESOTA MEDICAL FOUNDATION**  
**at the University of Minnesota**

The Minnesota Medical Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for health-related research, education, and service at the University of Minnesota.

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200 Oak Street SE, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55455–2030

612-625-1440  
800-922-1663

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www.mmf.umn.edu

The estate of Ruth E. Stief of Minneapolis will provide approximately \$700,000 to the Ruth E. Stief Public Health Nutrition Fund, which she originally established in 1985 for graduate education support. Professor Stief, who died in September 2005, was the first faculty member in and director of public health nutrition at the School of Public Health.

Synthes (USA), Paoli, Pennsylvania, made a \$105,000 pledge to establish a faculty support fund for Regions Hospital. A generous supporter of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Synthes is a global medical device company focused on products for the surgical fixation, correction, and regeneration of the human skeleton and its soft tissues.

Dr. Gerald W. Timm, Ph.D., and Susan E. Timm of Minneapolis pledged \$300,000 as a lead gift to establish the Dr. Gerald W. Timm Endowed Professorship in Neurourology and Urologic Engineering. Dr. Timm is a professor of urologic surgery and an affiliate senior member of the graduate faculty in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Widely known for developing medical devices for urological disorders, he is a cofounder of American Medical Systems, Inc. and Mentor Corporation as well as founder of Dacomed Corporation and Timm Medical Technologies.

The University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview pledged \$250,000 to support the Hope Lodge, a facility designed to provide comfortable accommodations for adult cancer patients and their caregivers during long-term cancer treatment. Hope Lodge is a joint project with the American Cancer Society, the University Medical Auxiliary, and the medical staff of the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview.

The Viking Children's Fund, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, contributed \$180,000 to support faculty research in the Department of Pediatrics. The organization is a philanthropic arm of the Minnesota Vikings football team.

The estate of Dr. Charles H. Walker Jr., Devils Lake, North Dakota, has distributed \$137,800 to the Minnesota Medical Foundation for the scholarship and research priorities of the Medical School. Dr. Walker was an alumnus of the Medical School's radiology residency program and practiced in North Dakota. He also served on the University of Minnesota Medical School faculty.

Dr. Warren J. and Henrietta H. Warwick of Minneapolis gave \$500,000 to establish the Warren and Henrietta Warwick Award in the Medical School for physicians pursuing Ph.D.s in the basic sciences. Their award, which will be given to residents in pediatrics and other specialties, will be matched by a 21st century fellowship from the University's graduate school. Dr. Warwick is founder of the Minnesota Cystic Fibrosis Center in the Department of Pediatrics. (See article, page 6.)

The WEM Foundation, Wayzata, Minnesota, gave \$100,000 to the Department of Pediatrics Teen Pregnancy Prevention Research Center to advance faculty/staff training and education.

The Wessner Foundation, Chicago, made a \$100,000 gift to the Medical School's Program in Human Rights and Medicine. Since 1988 this program has promoted an exchange of ideas on moral, legal, and public policy issues in medicine through scholarly investigations, practical projects, and educational programs.

**giving matters** WINTER 2006

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